

The HIGHPOINT staff wish Jennifer Santos, who will be a senior in the fall, a happy and profitable summer of study in the U.S.S.R.

HIGH POINT

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BISHOP FORD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Graduation, 1987

Successful Season For Girls' Varsity Softball Team

This year the girls' varsity softball team will be defending their title as Brooklyn/Queens champs. The 1987 team consists of Kathy Dolan (captain), Joanne Vallario, Gina Lynch, Rosalba Fasano, Renee Fontenelle, Nora Ricardi, Eileen Daly, E. J. McGee, Fran Rugieri, Sara Leary, Christine O'Hare, Millie Savares, and Kathy Gordon.

They captured the title of 1986 Brooklyn/Queens Champs by defeating St. Edmund's in an exciting best-of-three series. It went down to the bottom of the tenth inning with Ford victorious 3-2. Joanne Vallario hit a sacrifice fly to drive Colleen Donohue (graduated) for the winning run!

Along with the team's many victories in the 1986 season, their coach, Mrs. Virginia Mayrose, was chosen Daily News Coach of the Year. The team is hoping for another successful season, having already defeated Nazareth 10-2 in their first game.

Congratulations to Ms. Denise Skalecky, who has won the New York Biology Teachers' Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Teaching Profession.

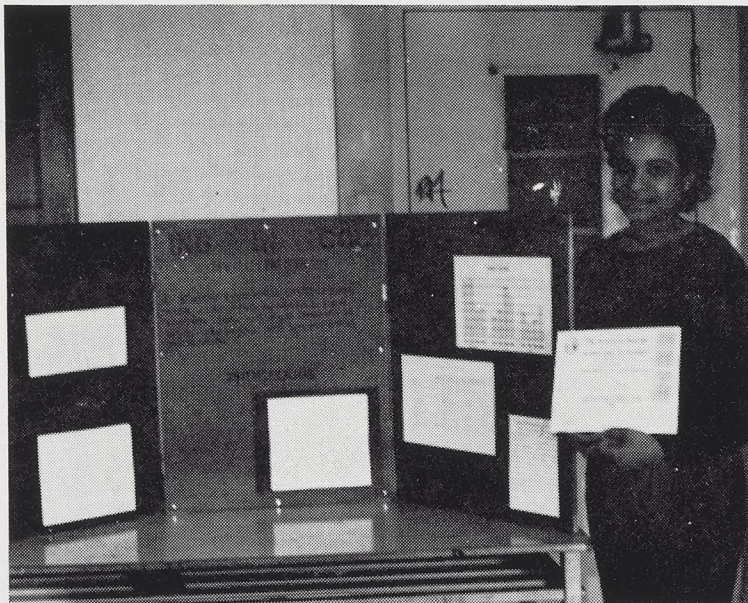
Ms. Skalecky taught full time at Bishop Ford H.S. for eight years and has been a part time teacher and moderator for the past three years.

A new dress code committee, which consisted of members of the faculty and administration exclusively, has made the following recommendations, which have been accepted by our principal, Brother Michel:

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors will wear a complete uniform consisting of blouses, skirts, slacks, shirts, and sweaters ordered by a uniform company.

Seniors will not wear a company-bought uniform; they will be required to conform to a stricter dress code.

RENEE JOHNSON Honored For Science Research Project



This past February, the Catholic Science Council of Brooklyn and Queens sponsored their annual Science Research Fair at St. John's University. This competition is open to all students in our Diocese. Renee Johnson, a senior in our school, entered this competition. Her science fair presentation was based on original research she completed last year in Advanced Independent Science Study. The subject of her research was "Food Preferences in Cockroaches." Renee was awarded the Third Place Medal and Certificate for her efforts at this competition.

In March, Renee Johnson entered her research project into the extremely competitive Brooklyn Borough Competition of the New York City Science Fair. In a field of over 300 entries, Renee was awarded an Honorable mention for her research on insects. Her certificates and ribbon are on display in Room 174.

The Board of Education of the City of New York and the American Institute of Science and Technology of the City of New York have sent Renee a special certificate for her participation in science research this year.

Chalk Circle Players Mount Barry's *Philadelphia Story*

by Joyce Chin

Bishop Ford's Chalk Circle players came together to produce another successful production: Philip Barry's "The Philadelphia Story."

This production was directed by Mr. Joseph Mingrone, who must be very proud of his students.

The veterans of the drama club are Michael McGee, Owen Moogan, Kirk Carlsen, Heather Bowen, Courtney Nash, Lawrence Callahan, Kim Osgood and Tina Pagano (assistant director).

The drama club's newcomers are Coleen Martin (who had the lead), John Ryan, Derek Rushton, Barbara Yacovello, Maria Gnerre and Karen Fabricatore.

Then there's the tech crew which was supervised by Mr. Robert Borch. They built the great set, and worked the lights, curtains and sound. Without them, the play would not have been possible.

So, a big hand for Mr. Mingrone, Mr. Borch, the cast and tech crew for their hard work in producing another successful play.

Special Olympics Held at Ford

by Joan Scott

On Wed., March 18, 1987, the Third Annual Special Olympics was held in the gym. It was a very hectic and confusing day, but many people gave up their time and energy to help organize this special day for over 100 mentally retarded children. They cared enough to do their best at making this day a success.

The day consisted of a series of events to be enjoyed by everyone. Different events were divided among the different age groups of the children. Events included the egg and spoon race, the scooter race, the broad jump, a basketball toss, and lastly, the tug-o-war. Trophies and medals were awarded to those children who came in 1st and 2nd place. However, all of the children received certificates for their outstanding participation in the events of the day.

There was also a counselor event in the middle of all the other events. This was the three-legged race. It was a lot of fun and many counselors participated in this event. First prize, which was a Slinky, was awarded to Kevin Maher and Aaron Simms. They made a fantastic team in this race and deserved to win. However, winning is not what the day was all about. The Special Olympics was a day on which to relax and just have fun.

Schools Not Accountable For Teen Suicide

by Gaetano Castellano

The latest fad for teenagers today is suicide. Teenagers unable to cope with life have found suicide to be an easy alternative. In the past, teenagers found drugs and alcohol to be easy ways to avoid coping with real life, but it seems that, to present-day teenagers, this answer is not adequate.

When four teenagers killed themselves in Bergenfield, N.J. this month, some commentators suggested that additional counseling or better teaching in schools about life and death might have prevented the four teenagers from committing suicide.

Schools should not be held accountable for teen suicide. However, they must play a role and offer help or make referrals when they see danger signs. Also, there should be more programs in the schools to help students with their personal problems. One example would be counseling classes with a professionally trained adult, where troubled students could go to get helpful advice, not only from the teacher, but also from the other students in the classroom.

Parents should also play a role. They must alert themselves to listen to their children. Parents must be there when their sons or daughters just need someone to talk to, someone who will listen to them and understand their problems. And if a kid does not express his problems to his parents, then it's up to the parents to sit down and ask if there are any problems. If there are, then the parents should give all the advice they can.

Also, the church must take an active role in helping these suicidal teenagers with spiritual support, letting them know that they have something to live for, because where there is God, there is hope. Also, the church should give them moral support through outreach programs that might offer distraught youths new avenues for talking through their problems. Finally, the government should provide money to train mental health professionals and school counselors.

Teen suicide is not an easy problem to deal with. It can't be the responsibility of one specific organization or institution.

FALCONS RAISE \$57,000

The students of Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School raised \$57,000 in this year's chancebook drive, which began on March 16 and ended on April 10.

CLASS OF 1987

CONGRATULATIONS TO

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1987

of

BISHOP FORD CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

HIGHPOINT welcomes Letters to the Editor from responsible individuals.

Rotting In A Lonely P.O.W. Camp In Vietnam

by Mark Woods, Jr.

"I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles that made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America."

Prisoner of War Resistance
Department of the Army
Training Manual: Dec. 1983

I have come to look upon the Easter season with mixed feelings. It always seemed to me that Easter was a time for remembering Christ's death and resurrection, a time for a coming together, so to speak, of the entire Christian family. For POW/MIA families, there is no coming together—just deceit and indifference.

It is difficult to grasp the POW/MIA issue as a whole; broken down, it becomes a sad story.

James Rozo kept faith in our country during the turbulent 60's by volunteering to go to Vietnam not once, but twice. Little did James know that the faith he had in America would be broken by American elected officials.

James Rozo has been a prisoner of war for 6,127 days.

James Rozo was captured north of Saigon on June 27, 1970 while on a resupply mission with two other American servicemen. The truck they were using was ambushed by Vietcong, and when they did not return, a patrol was sent out to find them. What the patrol found was a truck with bullet holes, no bodies, no bloodstains. A Vietcong later captured stated that he had taken part in the ambush and that three Americans (one of whom was positively James Rozo) were captured alive.

James Rozo's parents (Sam & Eva) never gave up hope. They put all their energy into getting James and other POW's home. In 1973 when Hanoi released "all American POW's," James was not with them.

To Sam & Eva's amazement, our country's elected officials then turned their back on them. President Nixon was caught up in Watergate and President Ford seemed more interested in giving pardons to draft resisters (and President Nixon).

Both Eva and Sam say that the low point was reached when President Carter arbitrarily changed their son's official status to "Killed In Action—Body Not Recovered," which was an outright lie according to government's own records.

Basically the reason given was that Carter had not heard from James Rozo in a while (President Carter must have thought the POWs should check in with him every once in a while to remind him of his moral responsibility to American servicemen who are POWs).

President Reagan seems to care a lot about this issue and has repeatedly told the National League of Families: "Your vigil is over, the POW issue now has the highest national priority." But the reality is that he has been in office for almost seven years now, and Sam and Eva still don't have their son home. (Maybe Reagan just forgot?)

I ask you, where is the outspoken humanitarian Jesse Jackson? Is there something different about these Americans in captivity that is causing him not to get involved?

Why are Americans buying Jane Fonda's books and attending her movies, when she hurt our POW's so much and makes a mockery of our country to this day?

While these questions are being asked, Jimmy is rotting in a lonely POW camp in Vietnam. Some of Jimmy's fellow POW's are dying from disease, torture, and neglect . . . Sam and Eva are getting older and their health isn't too good. Jimmy's nephew and niece wonder what it would be like to have an uncle.

Even I am starting to loose faith in what I once thought was the greatest country on earth.

After the French-Vietnam war in the 1950's, Vietnam leaders lied when they stated that they had returned all French POW's.

For 25 years Vietnam kept returning live French POW's with the last one reported in 1980. During this time France had to watch who they supported and what they said in reference to Vietnam.

In 1978 when Robert Garwood got word to the western world that he was alive and in captivity in Vietnam, he was eventually released. The first thing Garwood heard from an American officer was, "You have the right to remain silent." He was charged with desertion and collaboration and found guilty of collaboration. Garwood gave names, places and dates where he saw other American POW's in the late 70's, information the U.S.A. still has not acted upon. Political reputations were tainted when Garwood returned, which is probably why he was charged with desertion in the first place.

There are 154 eye-witness refugee reports received from 1981-1985 that our government hasn't been able to discount.

Retired Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. General Eugene Tighe has testified in House hearings: "During my time in office I had access to all the information then available on this issue, and it is clear to me that there still are Americans being held against their will in Vietnam."

Retired Congressional-Medal-of-Honor-winner Bo Gritz stated that he had in his possession a satellite photograph of

an operating POW camp. The photograph was acquired from former military friends still on active duty.

When Gritz organized a private rescue mission in 1983, he drew funds from many well-known movie stars, including Clint Eastwood and William Shatner. The mission called "Lazarus" (named after the biblical character Jesus raised from the dead) failed when Gritz was arrested in Thailand. Thousands of dollars in weapons, equipment and time were lost, all to the CIA.

A European diplomat in Vietnam has stated he came upon a group of white and black men working on a road near Hanoi. As he passed them, one of the men yelled, "We're Americans, POW's. Tell the world about us." (1980)

What is wrong with this country that we would abandon 2,464 of our own in a hellhole called Vietnam?

How can we ask for loyalty from our servicemen, when we as a nation are not ready to reciprocate if they are captured?

How can we ask future servicemen to fight for us if (God forbid) we get into another war?

Most of all, what will we say to any live POW's who do come home?

These abandoned men are the brothers, husbands, and fathers of all of us. Please don't forget them.

"...there are those who may fight in the arena of the POW camp. But, wherever, whatever the fight, let it be said, they fought their battle with honor."

INQUIRING REPORTER

by Kate Smith

What would you change at Bishop Ford?

Alberto Gomez, 405:

"I would like to see better, friendlier relations among students; fewer fights and more friendships would improve our school."

Anthony Fernandez, 404:

"A Varsity Football Team!"

Ed Fajardo, 404:

"I would do away with the dress code. I also dislike the way the cafeteria is set up; the senior section is a dumb idea; I would definitely have it rearranged."

Laura Pizza, 311:

"The demerit system is a bit harsh. I would like to see that changed, as well as the dress code."

John Orlando, 310:

"I would opt for less structure in the classroom, more freedom, less work, and better, friendlier student-teacher relationships."

Dimas DeJesus, 403:

"Better extra-curricular activities, open to everyone. I would also like more dances, involving the whole school, not just seniors, with better music!"

Letters to the Editor...

Choral Group Deserves Praise

I recently read the article about the 25th Anniversary Mass at Bishop Ford in *Highpoint* by Vilma Cardenas and Joanne Knights. It seems that everything written about how hard the readers, priests, principals from elementary schools, and, of course, the Bishop worked, is all very true. But they left out one small detail.

I'm talking about the Bishop Ford Choral Group. If it hadn't been for them, this special occasion would have turned out to be something so boring the faculty members and students wouldn't be talking about how wonderful the mass turned out. I think half of the hard work and credit should go to Mr. Provenza and the group for having the music. Throughout that whole article, nothing about the Choral Group was even mentioned. I myself am in the music club, and when something like this is published, it is almost like constructing a building without cement.

While walking through the hallway, I happened to notice some of the pictures of Bishop Mugavero, the priests, the readers, the altar boys, and Alex Caches and Chris Pardo. Oh! I can't forget about the track team. No pictures of the Bishop Ford Choral Group were there. That made me feel as if we were nothing important.

I think we ARE a main piece in this jigsaw puzzle.

Very truly yours,
Henry Diaz, 204

Student Spotlight:

GAETANO CASTELLANO

by Maria P. Mastromarino

Senior Gaetano Castellano has been more than busy during his four years at Ford. His activities cover a wide spectrum: Biology Club, Ecology Club, Language Club, **Pagoda**; he is also Editor-in-Chief of *Highpoint*. He has volunteered for the Special Olympics and Operation F.U.N., a summer camp for the mentally retarded and deaf, and is currently taking community service. Gaetano has been a homeroom representative and a presidential advisor, and he was elected to the National Honor Society as a sophomore.

Athletically, he has also done his part; he participated in cross county track and varsity tennis for three years and has been on the soccer team for four years and is captain at present. He has played on the N.Y.C. All-Stars for the past six years, the C.H.S.S.A. All-Stars, the N.Y.S. All-Stars (under 17) in 1985 and 1986, as well as in the 1985-86 Empire State games in Buffalo.

Aside from school, he has played with the GOJA soccer team for six years, the Guatemala soccer team and the Cosmopolitan All-Stars, and a select team in Europe for three years. Gaetano's talent has taken him all over Europe and across the U.S.

Gaetano is now working in a pharmacy, goes to clubs and parties, and enjoys skiing, while maintaining a 90 average.

In the fall Gaetano will be attending Fordham University on a scholarship for his academic and athletic talent, where he plans to study medicine and business, since he is unsure of what career to pursue.

When asked about his feelings about Ford, he commented: "I feel the school has offered me many opportunities in academics and sports. The teachers and coaches are very helpful and friendly to everyone."

HIGHPOINT

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